

## SDF - Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir Forest (Map Unit 3)



Photo credit: Jim Von Loh



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The Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir Forest Map Unit (SDF, Map Unit 3) represents a combination of the *Picea pungens* / *Juniperus communis* (Colorado Blue Spruce / Common Juniper) Forest Association and the *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Juniperus communis* (Douglas-fir / Common Juniper) Forest Association.

*Picea pungens* / *Juniperus communis* (Colorado Blue Spruce / Common Juniper) Forest Association - These forest stands occupy moderate to steep drainages, toeslopes, and midslopes throughout the monument at approximately 8280-8880 feet in elevation. The slope exposures are generally northeast through northwest; however, some exposures that range into the southeast and southwest are possible because of drainage orientation. Stands receive the maximum amount of snow accumulation in winter, due to the location, stand height, and stand density, however, drainage from these stands is rapid during snowmelt or rainfall events.

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Juniperus communis* (Douglas-fir / Common Juniper) Forest Association - These forests occupy moderate to steep slopes, merging into *Pinus ponderosa* / *Festuca arizonica* (Ponderosa Pine / Arizona Fescue) Woodland on upper stand margins and *Picea pungens* / *Juniperus communis* (Colorado Blue Spruce / Common Juniper) Forest on lower stand margins. They are found on north- and west-facing slopes, in drainages, along ridges, and other mesic sites within the monument. Most stands occur at mid to high elevations (8525–8875 feet) and typically occupy the entire slope, from the upper toeslope to the ridge or hill shoulder.

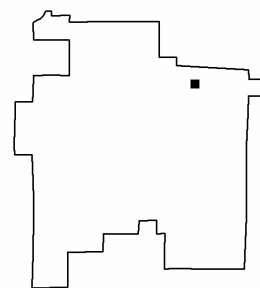
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### Photo Signatures

The Blue spruce / common juniper Forest and Douglas fir/ common juniper associations are difficult to distinguish from one another. In many cases there is almost an even mix of the two species within a stand, in terms of canopy height and tree density. In the natural color aerial photography, SDF appears as dark green with a medium to coarse mottled texture. The canopy is 60-75% closed and of varying dispersion with occasional small openings. The tree heights are 20-35 meters. Photo SDF-1 was taken in September 1996 and SDF-2 was taken in August 1995.



Photo SDF-1



Location of **SDF-1** within  
National Monument

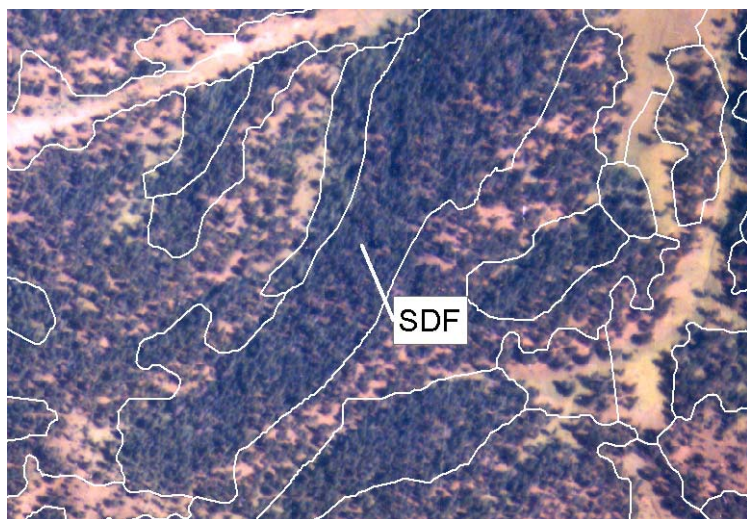
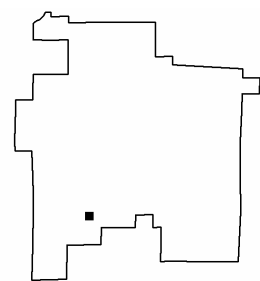


Photo SDF-2



Location of **SDF-2** within  
National Monument

## **SDF - Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir Forest (Map Unit 3) Continued**

### **Area Report for SDF Map Unit**

Number of Polygons: 69

Number of Hectares: 291.6

Number of Acres: 720.3

Average Size: 4.2 hectares, 10.4 acres

### **Accuracy Assessment Results for SDF Map Unit**

The Colorado Blue Spruce - Douglas-fir Forest Map Unit was assessed at 75% for producers' accuracy (confidence interval 66-84%) and at 92% users' accuracy (confidence interval 85-98%).